

REMARKS:

Applicant received a final Office Action dated July 21, 2003 and hereby timely file a request for continued examination to have the Examiner examine the above new claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner newly cited Kono and Iwamida to reject the previous claims. For the Examiner's information, both Kono and Iwamida perform nothing more than sound or speech recognition, and thus neither discloses or teaches the present inventions recited in the above claims. For each of the references, Applicant already submitted a full English translation in the Information Disclosure Statement dated June 6, 2003.

In both Kono and Iwamida, a speech or sound is detected and converted into an electrical signal. Both have a reference table in which signal patters are stored in relation to messages to be outputted. The reference table is then searched for a signal pattern identical or similar to the electrical signal. If the identical or similar signal pattern is found, the related message is read out and outputted from the reference table. Please note that this operation may be characterized as speech or sound recognition but cannot be said as understating of a meaning of the speech or sound.

On the other hand, as recited in the above claims, the present invention not only performs speech or sound recognition but also effects understanding of the meaning of the speech or sound. The present specification discusses exemplary methods for effecting understanding of the meaning of a speech or sound. (See the substitute specification, for instance, line 17, page 17 through line 18, page 20; and line 21, page 22 through line 3, page 24). In the present invention, then, the recognized speech or sound is transformed so as to become assistive in understanding of the meaning of the speech or sound. Neither kono nor Iwamida discloses or teaches these features of the present invention.

For the Examiner's reference:

(A) Claims 32-52 are drawn to a prosthetic hearing device that not only performs speech recognition on a speech but also analyzes results of speech recognition to comprehend a semantic meaning in the speech and generates sound information in

which the speech is transformed so as to be assistive in understanding the semantic meaning. The newly cited references, Kono and Iwamida, as well as the references previously cited, are all silent about analyzing results of speech recognition to comprehend a semantic meaning in the speech and generating sound information in which the speech is transformed so as to be assistive in understanding the semantic meaning.

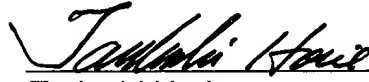
(B) Claims 53-82 are drawn to a prosthetic hearing device comprising a surgically implanted output device. The newly cited references, Kono and Iwamida, as well as the references previously cited, are all silent about the surgically implanted output device.

(C) Claims 83-93 are drawn to a prosthetic hearing device that not only performs speech recognition on a speech, but also analyzes results of speech recognition to comprehend a semantic meaning in the speech and generates display information in which the speech is transformed into at least one of a text image and a non-text image that is assistive in understanding of the semantic meaning of the speech. The newly cited references, Kono and Iwamida, as well as the references previously cited, are all silent about these features.

(D) Claims 94-103 are drawn to an artificial larynx device that not only performs speech recognition on a speech, but also analyzes results of speech recognition to comprehend a semantic meaning in the speech and generates sound information in which the speech is transformed so as to be assistive in understanding of the semantic meaning. Again, the newly cited references, Kono and Iwamida, as well as the references previously cited, are all silent about these features.

(E) Claims 104-111 are drawn to an information processing device that analyzes results of speech recognition to comprehend a semantic meaning in the speech and generates sound information in which the speech is transformed so as to be assistive in understanding of the semantic meaning.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tadashi Horie", is written over a horizontal line.

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